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Chem-Bio News

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CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

A HASSLE AT THE BORDER

By Mark Hosenball
NEWSWEEK
August 9, 2008

"Next time you visit Canada, don't forget your doctor's note. Travelers who've had recent radiation treatment, like a bone scan or thyroid therapy, could face unexpected hassles when they enter U.S. border checkpoints from Canada and Mexico. They're being pulled over for "secondary inspections," detained while officers search their cars and themselves—adding time to an already lengthy process.

It's all because they've undergone medical procedures with nuclear isotopes, which set off alarms in "radiation portal monitors" installed to foil terrorists who might be smuggling nukes or "dirty bombs." The trouble is, these travelers aren't terrorists—yet they account for the "vast majority" of radiation alarms, along with people transporting tile, kitty litter, granite and bananas, says Erlinda Byrd, a spokeswoman for the Homeland Security Department's Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, which operates the sensors."

"While the amount of radiation used in less-serious procedures would trigger the alarms for only a day or two, more-serious therapy (like thyroid treatment) can set off alarms for weeks."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.newsweek.com/id/151743/>

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STRENGTHENING OUR STRATEGY AGAINST WMD

By Ashton B. Carter and Robert G. Joseph

The Boston Globe

August 14, 2008

"One guide for action is the independent, bipartisan review that we led for the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, the principal arm of the Defense Department for combating WMD threats. Our 14-member Review Panel represented a range of political views, but above all a recognition that meeting the proliferation challenge requires an approach that transcends partisanship. The report's findings were not only unanimous, but readily so. The next president must act with decisiveness to correct the deficiencies we identified in our review.

As we began our work, the Review Panel quickly discovered that we needed to broaden our focus from the agency to the government as a whole."

"Although the Defense Threat Reduction Agency has performed well, it has not been given the resources necessary to meet its full potential in contributing to a growing set of urgent tasks. These range from developing new protections against bioterrorism to responding to a potential nuclear attack on a US city, from developing detectors that could find a nuclear weapon entering this country to supporting the Proliferation Security Initiative and other international arrangements to curb WMD. Since Sept. 11, 2001, the Defense Department's overall budget has grown significantly, but the Threat Reduction Agency's funding levels have been only slightly over the inflation rate, and legislative and regulatory restrictions continue to hinder optimal allocation of its limited resources.

The agency's funding limitations reflect a broader issue of insufficient clarity, priority, and purpose in efforts to combat WMD. Powerful military and civilian advocates are needed in the Defense Department to recognize the importance of these missions and the agency's unique potential to support them.

The Review Panel also identified areas where the agency's contribution should be expanded, such as conducting more inspections of nuclear weapons deployments to ensure their safety and security, and extending the Nunn-Lugar threat reduction program, which has been successful in the former Soviet Union, to a global program that might apply to Pakistan and other countries."

The full article can be found at: http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2008/08/14/strengthening_our_strategy_against_wmd/

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AEOLUS PHARMACEUTICALS CBRN PROTECTIVE PRODUCTS IN DEVELOPMENT

Aeolus Pharmaceuticals Form 8-K filing with the US Securities and Exchange Commission
August 4, 2008

"With the completion of our recent financing, we are now in position to initiate mouse and

primate studies of AEOL 10150 as a protective agent against radiation exposure in the lung," stated John L. McManus, President and Chief Executive Officer. "Studies of AEOL 10150 as a countermeasure for mustard gas exposure continue, and are being fully funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) CounterACT program. We anticipate that the next group of studies in mustard gas will begin this summer, and we should have results shortly thereafter."

The full article can be found at: http://msnmoney.brand.edgar-online.com/EFX_dll/EDGARpro.dll?FetchFilingHTML1?ID=6075428&SessionID=-8-oWyf5I-4GL29

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